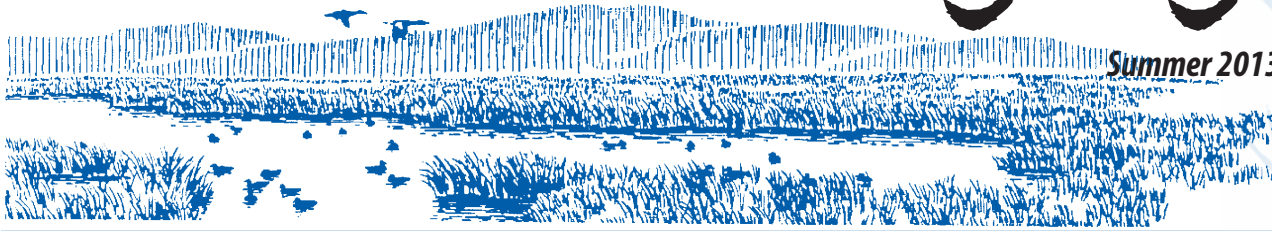


# The Flyway

Summer 2013



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

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**Save the date!**

**Nisqually Watershed Festival will be held Saturday, September 28th at Nisqually NWR.**

## Neotropical Migrant Birds Find a Summer Home at Nisqually

A walk at the Refuge in summer can be overwhelming; the lush foliage crowds in from all sides, flowers dazzle the eyes, and the bird chatter can be intense. A visitor could be forgiven for overlooking a mundane, grayish brown bird as it flitters past to land on a nearby branch – there are so many more colorful and flashy birds to see. But look closely—use binoculars—and the gray bird becomes a vision to behold. A black mask covers the eyes. The chest is light and slightly yellow, and the color fades around the bird's edges, blending and fading in a way so gradual and subtle it is hard to believe. The bird is stately and sleek, with a crest atop its head. But most remarkable of all is the bright, chartreuse stripe across the tail and the row of florescent orange dots on the wings—these red dots are not feathers, but drops of a waxy secretion, from which the species' common name has been derived.

This is a Cedar Waxwing, one member of a larger family of birds called Neo-

tropical migrants. These are birds which migrate from the tropics to breeding grounds in Washington and beyond each Spring, then return to the tropics in the late summer and fall. Many varieties of Neotropical migrant get more attention than the Cedar Waxwing: Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Orioles, and Warblers are all more colorful and visible. But like all of these, the Cedar Waxwing has flown thousands of miles to arrive in our area and at the Refuge for the summer.



*Cedar Waxwing. Photo by John Whitehead/USFWS*

Most species of Neotropical migrant are locally in decline. This is largely due to habitat loss, but also in part because of the Brown-headed Cowbird, an invasive species indigenous to the Great Plains (the presence of cowbirds is an ancillary result of habitat fragmentation). The clearing of forests for farmland, industry, and urban development have left conduits of desolation which the Brown-headed Cowbird has been able to follow, extending its range to cover the whole of North America.

*Continued on next page*

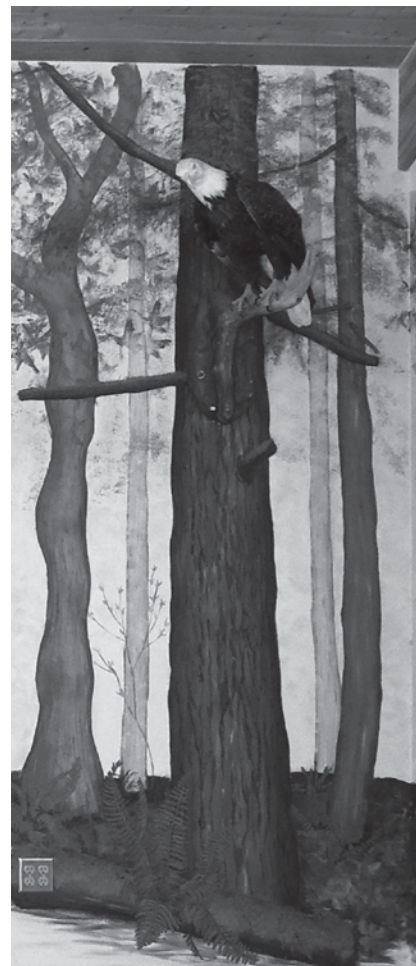


## News in Brief

► Following Jean Takekawa's retirement last January, a new Project Leader has finally been selected for the Refuge. Glynnis Nakai will be arriving from Maui National Wildlife Refuge Complex in late July. More about Glynnis in the next issue of *The Flyway*.

► Want to receive reminders about guided walks, the summer lecture series, and real time updates about rare birds and other events at the Refuge? Be sure to "like" our new Facebook page and you will receive all this and more in your Newsfeed.

► A new mural has been completed in the Refuge education center. The artwork, by local artist Carrie Ziegler, depicts an alder forest and mixed conifer forest with understory plants. It showcases two taxidermy eagle specimens, an adult and an immature, that are part of the Refuge's education collection. ✂



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Save trees, think green.

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## Neotropical Migrants

*From page 1*

Wherever the Brown-headed Cowbird goes, it parasitizes the nests of similar-sized birds. The cowbird eggs hatch faster than others in the host nest and the chicks also develop more quickly, allowing them to crowd out and kill the host-bird's chicks either by dominating feeding, or by actively tossing out or smothering them. In this way, the cowbird has become a formidable threat to Neotropical migrant abundance.

The Cedar Waxwing is a noteworthy exception. To a degree that is quite unique, the Cedar Waxwing lives almost exclusively on the many fruiting plants that are so abundant on the Refuge: Salmonberry, Indian plum, elderberry, and non-native species like blackberry and apple. The Cedar Waxwing diet is consequently so acidic that the Brown-headed Cowbird chicks cannot survive. In this way, the Cedar Waxwing is an invaluable Neotropical migrant, helping to counteract the spread of parasitic cowbirds. So while in your backyard or at the Refuge, don't overlook the little gray birds: they may not be flashy, but sometimes there's much more to them than meets the eye. ✂



# Summer Programs

## July

**Saturday, July 6**

### ***Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

**10am – 1pm**

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

### ***How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs***

**10am – 1pm**

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

**Sunday, July 7**

### ***It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild***

**9am – 11am**

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Jan Seguin on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

**Saturday, July 13**

### ***Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

**9am – 11am**

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Phil Kelley for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

**Saturday, July 20**

### ***How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs***

**10am – 1pm**

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

**Saturday, July 27**

### ***Birding Basics: Learning to See***

**9am – 11am**

What subtle cues do experienced birders use to quickly and accurately identify species? Birding is nothing less than the art of seeing, so the techniques used by birders increase awareness of all things natural. Refuge Ranger Michael Schramm will guide you through the estuary's diverse habitats on an odyssey of avian discovery, all the while teaching the ins and outs of birding. Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center – and remember to bring binoculars!

## August

**Saturday, August 3**

### ***Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

**10am – 1pm**

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

**Sunday, August 4**

### ***It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild***

**9am – 11am**

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Jan Seguin on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

**Sunday, August 4** *(Continued)*

***The Nisqually and Medicine Creek:  
Where Nature, Culture and History Converge***

**1pm – 2:30pm**

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty; explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

**Saturday, August 10**

***Birds of a Feather:  
Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

**9am – 11am**

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Phil Kelley for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

***How to Keep a Wave on the Sand:  
Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs***

**10am – 1pm**

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

**Saturday, August 24**

***How to Keep a Wave on the Sand:  
Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs***

**10am – 1pm**

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

**Saturday, August 24**

***It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild***

**10am – 12 noon**

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalists Art Pavey, Jan Kramer, and Cheri Greenwood on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

**Sunday, August 25**

***Our Amazing Plant World***

**1pm – 2:30pm**

Summer is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life in all its diversity! Join Sally Vogel on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plant-insect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

**Saturday, August 31**

***Birds of a Feather:  
Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

**8:30am – 12noon**

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or of hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second)! Join experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: The birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

**September**

**Sunday, September 1**

***It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild***

**9am – 11am**

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Jan Seguin on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

**Saturday, September 7**

***Birds of a Feather:  
Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

**10am – 1pm**

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.



**Saturday, September 7** *(Continued)*

## ***How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs***

**10am – 1pm**

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

**Sunday, September 8**

## ***The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge***

**1pm – 2:30pm**

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty; explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.



### ***Scenes from guided walks at Nisqually:***

*Above: Sally Vogel examines a Bigleaf Maple and describes the complexity of the local ecosystem on her "Our Amazing Plant World" walk. Above right: Greg Farley assists photography students during his workshop.*

*Right: Phil Kelley fields questions at the visitor center pond overlook at the beginning of his "Birds of a Feather" guided walk.*



**Saturday, September 14**

## ***How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs***

**10am – 1pm**

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

**Saturday, September 28**

## ***Nisqually Watershed Festival***

**10am – 4pm**

Tours and guided walks through-out the day, as well as music, live animal presentations, educational exhibits, a marine touch tank, and walks and tours. Join us in a celebration of the cultural, economic and natural resources of the Nisqually Watershed!



## Shorebird Festival a Great Success!

Shorebird numbers were increasing each day during this year's Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, and the spring shorebird migration peaked on Sunday, April 28 when biologists counted some 48,000 shorebirds at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. Festival sponsors, The City of Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Audubon Society and Grays Harbor NWR estimated 1,150 people attended this year's Festival. Though the festival features many events, the main attraction and the highlight for many was, of course, seeing the amazing shorebirds on their stopover during their long migration north.

The Festival, held the last weekend in April in Hoquiam, included three action packed days with field trips, lectures, exhibitors, vendors, a banquet, auction and shorebird viewing. Kids and families enjoyed the nature Fun Fair and the Shorebird Festival Poster Contest

Awards Ceremony. The auction raised \$3,730 of which \$1700 was donated especially to support the Grays Harbor NWR AmeriCorps Education Volunteer.

The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival could not happen without a large number of volunteers from several organizations helping to organize the event and working throughout the weekend. A big thank you goes to the volunteers with Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Nisqually and Grays Harbor NWR's, and the Washington Service Corps/AmeriCorps.

For more details about the 2013 Festival go to: [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com). Mark your calendars now for the 2014 Festival set for April 25-27, 2014. Start looking for shorebirds returning on their migration south beginning in mid-July. The fall migration lasts though September. ✈

## 2013 Washington Federal Junior Duck Stamp Results!

The Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is the culmination of the Junior Duck Stamp educational program.

After studying waterfowl anatomy and habitat, students may articulate their newfound knowledge by drawing, painting or sketching a picture of an eligible North American waterfowl species.

This year's contest for Washington, held at the Refuge, received 150 entries from across the state. The high quality artwork from all the young artists made for a very competitive contest. The judging panel consisted of five judges: Rich Hannan (Deputy Regional Director US Fish & Wildlife Service Northwest Region), Dave Brittell (WA Department of Fish & Wildlife), Byrn Watson (local wildlife artist), Dale Thompson (retired Chief Naturalist at Mt. Rainier National Park and local wildlife artist) and Ryan Perry (local wildlife artist and former two-time WA Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show winner).

Judges selected three 1st place, three 2nd place, three 3rd place, and up to sixteen Honorable Mention winners from four groups based on grade level (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12th grade). Out of all the 1st place winners in from each group, a Best of Show has been selected to represent Washington at the national competition to be held

on April 19 at Patuxant National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. This year's 1st place winners were Annie Atkin-

son, Aiden Bai, Evelyn Tsang, Audrey Chang, Shrisha Menon, Sophie Yuan-Ju Tsai, Deborah Yang, Yuan-Ju Tsai, Emmie Dong, Malachi Hreniuc, Hoeun Jung, Kyuri Kim, Victoria Moon, and Kyle Petterson. The Best of Show winner selected from among these artists depicted a Harlequin Duck and was painted by Emmie Dong, 13 years old, of Vancouver. Congratulations to Emmie Dong and all the winners in



*This year's Best of Show, a Harlequin Duck by Emmie Dong.*

this year's Washington Junior Duck Stamp Contest!

You can view a slideshow of all this year's place winners at the Refuge website. The exhibit featuring the original artwork of this year's winners is on display in the Auditorium at Nisqually NWR. A traveling exhibit will travel throughout Washington State to colleges, libraries, and education centers, art galleries/museums, festivals, and fairs. If interested in showing the exhibit or in finding out its current location, contact Byrn Watson at (360)736-1082. ✈





**Scenes from the Shorebird Festival:**

*Above left: An Oystercatcher, Dunlin, and Black-bellied Plover attend the Shorebird Festival.*

*Above right: Naturalist Art Pavey leads a guided walk at the festival*

*Center left: Poster Contest Best of Show winner Kendall Cavin receives recognition from Hoquiam City Council President and Mayor Pro Temp Ben Winkleman.*

*Center right: Dunlin forage for food on the mudflats in the late afternoon sun.*  
*Bottom: Refuge Visitor Services Manager Sheila McCartan addresses an audience during one of the many evening activities.*

## Summer Lecture Series

# Our Wonderful Watery World

The 26th Summer Lecture Series at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge will be held the last four Wednesday evenings in July and every Wednesday evening in August.

**July 10**

## Marine Wildlife of Puget Sound

Speaker: David Jennings  
Local Scuba Diver

**July 17**

## Elk and Deer: What Wondrous Species

Speaker: Michelle Tirhi  
District Biologist for Thurston and  
Pierce Counties  
Washington Department of  
Fish and Wildlife

**July 24**

## The Giant Pacific Octopus

Kathryn Kegel  
Aquarium Biologist  
Seattle Aquarium

**July 31**

## The Warming Ocean's Role in Climate

Speaker: Greg Johnson  
Oceanographer  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration

**August 7**

## Ice Worms: What they Tell Us About Glaciation

Speaker Peter Wimberger  
Professor and Director of the  
Slater Museum of Natural History  
University of Puget Sound

**August 14**

## Mountain Fever: Stories of the First Ascents on Mt. Rainier

Speaker: Jim Ross  
Outreach Specialist, Naturalist  
Mt. Rainier National Park

**August 21**

## The Insect Safari

Speaker: Don Ehlen  
Naturalist

**August 28**

## Feathers: Biology and Beauty

Speaker: Chris Maynard  
Artist

**Location:** All lectures will be held in the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Take I-5 exit 114 and follow signs to the Refuge.

**Time:** The lectures start at 7pm and will last approximately 1 hour followed by questions. Doors open at 6pm.

**Entrance Fee:** The Refuge entrance fee is waived for those attend-

ing the lectures. All lectures are free.

**Special Accommodations:** Persons with disabilities who require accommodations should contact the Refuge at (360)753-9467.

**Limited Seating:** The Visitor Center auditorium seats 100 people. Attendance is limited to seats available. Seating will be issued starting at 6pm on a first come basis, and

you must be present. If there are not seats available when you arrive, you will not be able to attend the lecture. The trails are open until sunset.

**Additional Notes:** On lecture nights, the Visitor Center will be open until 7pm and after the lecture. Thanks to Friends of Nisqually NWR for their support of the Summer Lecture Series. ✂



# New and Renewing Friends Membership, Spring 2013

## Senior/Student (\$15)

George Rybolt  
Peggy Shaules  
Polly Taylor  
Chuck Holmquist  
Louise Wackerle  
Marilyn Pratt  
Charles Pratt  
Elaine Schmidt  
Phyllis Sturges  
Paul R. Hunter  
Joseph and Esther Alexanian

## Individual (\$25)

Kurt Snyder  
Mary L. Zimmer  
Nancy Alden  
Susan Stone

Cori Halverson  
Linda Bauer  
Nicole de Recat  
Karen Lewis

## Family (\$50)

Quentin Powers  
Lindsey and Doug Ford  
Jim Bamberger and  
Nancy Eastloam  
Paul and Anne Jacobson  
Joe and Kerry Klein  
Jay and Judy Chase  
Michelle Ellis Bevil  
Bill and Beverly Lund  
David M. Ward  
Robert and Ruth Brigden  
Byrn and Jo Anne Watson

## Supporting (\$100)

David Batker  
Carol and Larry Else  
Harold T. Hartinger  
Doug and Lillian Ryan  
Sheila McCartan and  
Tom Schooley  
Barbara Young

### Friends of Nisqually NWR

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1998 to promote conservation of the natural and cultural resources and fund educational and outreach programs at **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex.**

# Join Friends of Nisqually NWRC!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please send information on making Friends of Nisqually NWRC a beneficiary of my estate.  
☐ Check here to receive an electronic version of *The Flyway* newsletter by email.

### Individual/Family Memberships

- ☐ \$15 Student/Senior  
☐ \$25 Individual  
☐ \$50 Family  
☐ \$100 Supporting  
☐ \$250 Partner  
☐ \$500 Patron  
☐ \$1000 Benefactor

### Corporate/Business Memberships

- ☐ \$250 Business Sponsor  
☐ \$500 Community Partner  
☐ \$1000 Sustaining Business  
☐ \$2500 Corporate Patron  
☐ \$5000 + Corporate Benefactor

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Nisqually NWRC, 100 Brown Farm Rd, Olympia, WA 98516

**Your tax deductible contribution will help preserve the unique habitats, fish, and wildlife of the Nisqually Delta and the Grays Harbor Tideflats.**

OFFICE USE Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Mo \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_\_\_ Ent \_\_\_\_\_ Mld \_\_\_\_\_

**Friends of Nisqually  
National Wildlife Refuge**

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Olympia WA 98516

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage

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Olympia WA  
Permit #206

**Return Service Requested**

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*... conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and  
their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people...*

**You are invited to the 26th Annual**

# **Nisqually Watershed Festival!**

**Great fun for the Whole Family:**

- ▶ Music and live animal presentations
- ▶ Tours and guided walks throughout the day
- ▶ Great educational displays from around the area
- ▶ Red Salmon tent, storytelling, and critters parades
- ▶ Marine touch tank
- ▶ Check out the Nature Explore Area for children
- ▶ And of course, the yummy food!

**Saturday, September 28  
at Nisqually NWR  
from 10am–4pm  
All events are free  
(except the food!)**

***Join us and celebrate the cultural, economic, and  
natural resources of the Nisqually Watershed!***

For more information, go to **[www.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nisquallyriver.org)**  
or call **(360) 753-9467**